

Listing of Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Deleted material is shown in ~~strike through~~; or shown in ~~[[double brackets]]~~ to show the deletion of five or fewer characters. Inserted material is underlined, to show the changes made.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling access to a printing environment comprising:

~~a directory server coupled to a third network and located outside a firewall, the third network coupled to a first network, the first network coupled to a network device that comprises information identifying the network device on the first network, wherein the network device is located inside the firewall, the directory server comprising:~~

a memory; and

a message processor adapted to register ~~[[the]]~~ identification information in a directory table in the memory

at least one printing device coupled to a first network, wherein the first network is configured inside at least one firewall, and wherein the directory server is configured outside the at least one firewall;

a second network coupled to the first network and the third network;

a means for registering identification information for the at least one printing device on the directory server, wherein the identification information at least partially comprises availability information and configuration information;

at least one client device coupled to the first network;

a means for sending a request to the directory server from the at least one client device comprising an availability inquiry about the availability of an at least one printing device;

a means for processing the request and issuing a reply message to the at least one client device, wherein the reply message comprises all the configuration information

necessary for the client device to configure the at least one printer to print files from the at least one client device; and

a means for configuring the at least one printer to print at least one file from the at least one client device.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The system apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one printing device is selected from among network device comprises one of an inkjet printer, a laser printer, a wide format printer, [[or]] and a dot matrix printer.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The system apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network device further comprises a network connection for coupling to the first network.

6. (Currently Amended) The system apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first network comprises a local area network.

7. (Currently Amended) The system apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first network comprises a plurality of interconnected networks.

8. (Currently Amended) The system apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~directory server is coupled to the first network via a second network~~ [[that]] comprises any of a wide area network, global network, public network, or the Internet.

9-10.(Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The system apparatus of claim 1, wherein the identification identifying information comprises an address.

12. (Currently Amended) The system apparatus of claim 1, wherein the identification identifying information comprises an address of the network device on the first network.

13. (Currently Amended) The system apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first network is coupled to a second network, and the identification identifying information comprises an address of the first network on the second network.

14-24. (Cancelled).